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V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION HOSTS GRADUATION OF FIRST CLASS AT IRAQI NATIONAL GUARD ACADEMY

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office release

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – V Corps' 1st Infantry

Division hosted a ceremony July 10 for the first class of Iraqi National Guard soldiers to graduate from the ING Training Academy here.

This is the only ING academy for the area of operations of the division's Task Force Danger. In the past training was done "in house" by separate ING battalions. The 309 graduates completed a 20-day course taught by coalition and Iraqi instructors.



SGT ROLAND G. WALTERS

An Iraqi National Guard recruit demonstrates Individual Movement Techniques while an ING drill instructor shouts words of encouragement on July 6 at the ING Training Academy in Tikrit, Iraq.

"The graduation is a major milestone in your life and for the sovereignty of Iraq,"

said Maj. Gen. John R. S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division commander.

The course is designed on U.S. Army basic training. ING recruits are instructed on uniform wear, military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremony and basic rifle marksmanship, said Maj. Scot R. Bemis, ING Training Academy commandant.

Instruction, however, is based on of the Iraqi Army's marching, saluting, and AK-47 assault rifle weapons familiarization training, he added.

Recruits are also taught first aid, personnel and vehicle search procedures and individual movement techniques.

The soldiers are recruited by separate battalions throughout the division's area of responsibility. Each battalion is allocated a set number of slots per class.

